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board to the surface of the projection adjacent a second edge of the second circuit board that is perpendicular to the first edge of the second circuit board.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action mailed on December 24, 2002 as well as the art cited. Claims 1, 10 and 16 have been amended to clarify the relationship between the tapered groove and the circuit board. Claims 1-3 and 5-16 are currently pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,308) in view of Radloff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,544,006).

Claims 5, 7, 11, 13, and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,308), as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Varnau et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,309,856).

Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,308) as modified, as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Burns (U.S. Patent No. 5,008,777).

Claims 8 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,308), as modified, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Speraw et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,018,982).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Le et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,038,308), as modified, as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Clements (U.S. Patent No. 6,122,176).

Applicant, respectfully traverses these rejections. The Examiner correctly states that Le et al. does not disclose tapered grooves.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part "wherein receiving a first edge of a first circuit board and a first edge of a second circuit board and receiving a second edge of the first circuit board

comprises grasping and securing a first edge of a first circuit board and a first edge of a second circuit board and grasping and securing a second edge of the first circuit board.”

Claim 10, as amended, recites in part “grasping a first edge of a first circuit board and a first edge of a second circuit board” and “wherein the first and second circuit boards are secured via the grasped first edge of the first circuit board and the grasped first edge of the second circuit board, respectively.”

Claim 16, as amended, recites in part “grasping and securing a first edge of a first circuit board and a first edge of a second circuit board.”

None of the references alone or in combination teach or suggest grasping and securing an edge of a circuit board as found in claims 1, 10, or 16. In contrast, Radloff discusses card guide structure 36, illustrated in Fig. 6, movably attached to a wall of the main chassis of a PC. Card guide structure 36 includes a plurality of the card guide structure projections 82 formed thereon that preferably form card guide projection-pairs 96. Preferably, the card guide structure projection-pairs 96 have slanted surfaces 98 thereon that are adapted to urge the card guide structure 36 toward a retracted position when the expansion card (not shown) bears against the slanted surfaces 98. (See Col. 7, lines 21-34) There is no discussion of securing circuit boards via grasping an edge of a circuit board. Further, there is no discussion of card guide 36 grasping the edge of a circuit board. None of the other cited references teach or suggest a tapered groove for grasping and securing a circuit board as found in claims 1, 10 and 16. As a result, claims 1, 10 and 16 are not anticipated or obvious in view of the cited art and should be allowed.

Claims 2-9 and 11-15 depend from and further define allowable claims 1 and 10 and for at least the reasons provided above should also be allowed.

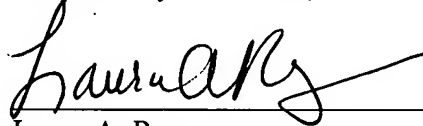
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 1-3 and 5-16 are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 332-4720.

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Respectfully submitted,



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